

Meeting Minutes Facilities Advisory Committee  
Wednesday, September 17, 2008  
Madison County Courthouse  
Virginia City, Mt

People Present: Chairman John Scully, Commissioner Dave Schulz, Commissioner Jim Hart, Pat Bradley, Allyson Adams, Toni James, Frank Nelson, Bill Hanley, Paul Marsh, Oliver Smith, Janice Harlo, Bob Miller, Dee Loveland, Dona Lindsey, Kim Hudson

The meeting was called to order at 4:15pm by Chairman Scully.

The minutes were read and the following changes were requested:

- ✓ Building a new facility would include a jail, not leave it where it is
- ✓ Bob Miller clarified an earlier meeting where it was suggested that amateurs were writing the survey. He submitted his professional credentials to John Scully. He also clarified that the response to computer generated survey is followed up with a random mail survey. If the mail survey is responded to with 5-10% of the recipients, the computer survey can be verified.
- ✓ It was pointed out that in the summers Virginia City is on water rationing due to the low water supply in the current well.
- ✓ Two board members have resigned. They are Virgil Lindsey and Bill Dogget.

The minutes stand approved as corrected.

**Dave Schulz Presentation on State Land Availability**

Commissioner Schulz contacted Gary Williams, the area manager of States Lands, regarding the concept of a public facility project on state land. Recognizing that the project is in the idea stage, Williams said that the topic can be discussed with a leasehold or long-term agreement. The opportunity to put a public facility there is open for discussion. It would need to go through a five member state land board. It is indeed state land, and not BLM as suggested in a prior meeting. The leasehold cost would be minimal, although the dollar figure was not discussed. Schulz explained that local governments typically have good relationships with state lands. The exact location of the land is between Nevada City to the north and Granite Creek, near the existing sewer system. The property idea came to the FAC from the Sheriff's office because it may be less expensive to hook to the sewer system due to its location.

**Two Courthouse Options:**

Chairman Scully asked the board to evaluate the two options. The wording familiar to the group is as follows: The ½ loaf is the small addition to the courthouse that adds 1170 square feet. The full loaf is the larger addition discussed that would add approximately 2720 square feet.

Discussion surrounded the idea that there is not enough square footage in either plan to do what it needs to do. If an addition was built, a "sally-port" for the sheriff's office would need to be considered as well. It would take a large amount of square footage of space from the design. According to the architect, the "half loaf" would cost \$1,664,449 and the "full loaf" would cost \$2,600,000. Neither bid includes money needed for canopy or garage which has to go inside the footprint ("sally-port"). Chairman Scully pointed out that the commissioners still have the authority to add on to the courthouse without a vote, but the plan they would be going off of is inadequate to the needs of the jail and the courthouse facilities.

Question: At what level can the commission go forward without a vote?

Answer from Commissioner Schulz: There is no set answer, because it depends upon all commissioners' decisions as well as the budgeted items for the projected years. Currently, the county has earmarked a total of \$1.3 million for capital improvements for the courthouse.

Q: Is the road West of the courthouse a real road?

A: No. It is not considered a true road by the authorities, and it can technically be used as a lot.

Q: Were there any core drilling tests done at the original location?

A: Yes. The necessity to deal with water issues, etcetera, were figured in the estimate provided by the architects

**Weed Board:**

A report from the weed board states that the commissioners are taking care of the weed board needs, so it is not an issue for the FAC. The weed board office will be short-term in the schoolhouse, but long-term will be in the courthouse. The timeline for the weed board moving is as soon as possible. They are taking over the old Road Shop, so new garage construction is not necessary. The new location will have plans for two bathrooms, an office, chemical storage, and more. They can potentially move in this winter.

**Pankey House:**

There are continuing concerns for the residents of the Pankey House, so the commission filed for re-consideration of the use of the Lee House as a location for the public employees currently housed at the Pankey House. Chairman Scully recapped the Lee House Request. The public works department and the mayor are still talking with the commission, and still considering the Lee house as an option for some offices. The commission asked the City Council for suggestions for office space and parking considerations, including suggestions on which offices require the least amount of foot and public traffic. The Lee house would cost an approximate \$325,000-\$345,000 plus renovations to account for technology and separate office spaces. Chairman Scully put to a vote the short term consideration of the Lee House. The vote was 13 Yes and 1 No, with no formal motion put into place.

**Rumors:**

The Emergency Services moving to Twin Bridges is a rumor with no basis in fact.

**Pat Bradley:**

Pat presented a formal plan written in outline form and handed to all people present. Her presentation was entitled "That the Madison County Commissioners Proceed With the Proposed Court House Addition and Law and Justice Center Building Project 2007 with modifications to the number of cell block and bed units as deemed necessary by the Commissioners and Sheriff of Madison County." The proposal outlined Pat's proposal to be considered as one of the options before the commissioners.

**.Comments:**

Allyson Adams, former Mayor of Virginia City spoke up as a part of the coalition against the original plan that was most recently brought to the voters. She stated that number eight on Pat Bradley's plan (A negative campaign of personal attacks, slurs, falsehoods and irrelevancies most likely contributed to the defeat of the expansion ballot issue through widespread misinformation) is false. She supports dealing with the safety issues with the Pankey house and moving the city/county staff to a more appropriate and safe location. She stated that she did not realize that the situation is as dire as it seems to be, and suggested that perhaps the city council doesn't realize it either. Allyson went on to say that if anyone still takes issue with the campaign to defeat the proposal most recently brought to the voters, she would be happy to speak to them and address all issues.

Bob Miller spoke up to say that he was originally against the project in the beginning, but accepts that there needs to be something done and that now is the time to move forward.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, October 22 at 4:30 pm in the Courthouse courtroom.